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is simply the prognosis, diagnosis, prophylactics, and therapeutics of existing social evils. Aside from the alleged underlying biological principle and the somewhat novel terminology, the treatment of this side of the subject is not notably original, and in fact one is somewhat surprised to find that with such a profoundly scientific substratum the social questions discussed are, after all, both in their normal and their pathological aspects, little else than those that confront us in other economic, sociological, and even popular literature everywhere. The social organism theory is merely used as a thread upon which to string every conceivable question in the social world, and one of the chief recommendations of this theory is its use in furnishing the vehicle in which are thus borne and distributed to the world the fertile ideas and the ripened wisdom of such well-stored minds. Let us thank the "social organism" for this service to the world.

LESTER F. WARD.

The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects. By F. H. WINES and JOHN KOREN. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1897

AN investigation has been carefully carried on under the direction of President Eliot, President Low, and Mr. J. C. Carter, subcommittee of fifty to collect data in relation to the liquor traffic. The purpose of the committee is to prepare a basis of fact for social judgments and to do this in a thoroughly impartial spirit. The volume here noticed forms one part of a series of studies. Its main topics are Prohibition in Maine and in Iowa, The South Carolina Dispensary System, The Restrictive System in Massachusetts, The Liquor Laws of Pennsylvania, The Ohio Liquor Tax, Liquor Laws in Indiana, and The Missouri Local Option Law. The main conclusions which are suggested by the data are summarized by the committee.

The results of the statistical researches are mainly negative; even if the student had command of government agencies for collecting the materials they could not be conclusive because the local conditions are so various and shifting.

The facts in regard to legislation are accurately and fully given, and the testimonies of intelligent witnesses throw light on the effects of the laws. At every step the inquiry is hindered by prejudices, partisanship, and hostile economic interests.

Prohibitory legislation has succeeded in preventing the manufacture on a large scale of distilled and malt liquors within the very limited area covered by it; but has not succeeded in preventing the sale of such liquors. Many social evils, as evasion of law, hypocrisy, and bribery, have been aggravated by this legislation. Local option has had a fair success in towns generally opposed to the saloon—if they were near enough license towns to get intoxicants! The provisions of the license laws which have been most useful in restricting the evils of dramshops are carefully described.

The committee distinctly shows that the South Carolina dispensary law lacks the essential feature of the Norway method: it does not remove the motive of private gain, because the salaries of dispensers are made to depend on the amount of business done in their respective dispensaries. It is important that the public should understand that the failures of the Carolina plan cannot be charged to the Norway plan.

The non-legislative methods of diminishing the injuries due to the drink traffic are not considered in this report, but will be discussed by other subcommittees. The names of the investigators and of the directors are sufficient guarantee of ability, fairness, and scientific accuracy. The book is a model in all these aspects and should be carefully studied by all who have occasion to speak or write on the subject.

C. R. HENDERSON.

Grundbegriffe und Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaft. Zur Einführung in das Studium der Staatswissenschaften. Von DR. JULIUS LEHR. Leipzig: Verlag von C. L. Hirschfeld, 1895.

FOR its clearness and conciseness, for completely unbiased scientific judgment, and for the characteristic feature—rare enough in most German “outlines” of economics—of leaving aside matters of minor importance in order to devote all attention to those which justly claim consideration, this is the best outline of political economy that I have yet seen. It is questionable, however, whether the employment of algebraic proofs and illustrations offers any considerable help to the average reader in pursuing the author’s arguments.

Of the 350 pages which the book approximately contains, about 60 are devoted to the concept of value, and about 130 to the regulation